

The Migration of *Numenius borealis* in Massachusetts in 1892.—Although there was at the right time considerable weather sufficiently severe to deflect and land Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*), either it was insufficient to cause a like result on such powerful fliers as Eskimo Curlews, or none were passing our coast at the time. I have consequently but a meagre record to present. At Nantucket on the afternoon and during the night of Aug. 26, it blew hard (at rate of 37 miles an hour) with rain. On the next day two birds were shot, two were seen also on Tuckernuck Island; these were the first birds of the season. None were seen between this date and Sept. 1, when one rather lean bird was shot; the wind was west to north, a fresh breeze, late in the afternoon it backed to northeast. My next record was on Sept. 6 when five birds were shot on Tuckernuck Island, and three seen and one shot on Nantucket. No more were noted until Sept. 15, on which date three were seen and one killed on Nantucket. On the afternoon of the 14th the wind was strong, southeast, increasing to rate of 35 miles an hour at midnight, with hard rain. Towards morning of the 15th the wind changed to northwest, a light breeze. These instances cover all the birds noted during the entire season on the above islands. Mr. William Everett of Dorchester, Mass., who visits Prince Edward Island regularly every year, informs me that seven Eskimo Curlew were shot at Alberton, and one at Darnley, on or about Aug. 28, which were all that he heard of during the entire season.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

*Charadrius squatarola*.—Mr. William Everett of Dorchester, Mass., has furnished me with the following information. At Malpeque, Prince Edward Island, August 22, 1892, during mild, pleasant weather, a very large flight of Black-bellied Plover appeared, the number that landed being estimated at about one thousand. It was composed entirely of adults with black, and black-and-white, breasts. They established themselves in several fields at Lower Malpeque where they are locally known as 'Sea Plover.' On the night of Sept. 14, 1892, it rained and was misty with southwest wind. On the next day the greatest number of young birds that was ever noted in this vicinity at one time was seen in and flying about the fields of Lower Malpeque. While driving around late in the afternoon as many as one thousand birds (estimated) were seen in four fields. Many others were noticed flying, which did not stop. All the adults mentioned above and which also had frequented the same fields where the young birds were now, had previously departed.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

The Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* in Massachusetts in 1892.—At Nantucket, Aug. 18, a flock of fifteen Golden Plover was seen, the first noted this season. Aug. 20, I saw five scattered birds. I think there must have been a storm at sea recently, for the surf was running high and breaking over the beaches into the ponds near the shore on the south side of the island, notwithstanding the fresh north wind. Large numbers of

birds must have passed over the island tonight, as they have been heard whistling during the greater part of the night; none stopped. This was the first movement noticed this season. In the afternoon the wind changed to west by south, clear, warmer and pleasant.

Aug. 25 I saw a flock of twenty two, and shot three of them. The wind was south by east, fresh, in the forenoon; more moderate in the afternoon; the weather was thick outside the island, barometer 29.75 and falling. Aug. 26, I was driving over the Plover ground at daylight. The wind remained southeast up to 3.30 A.M.; at 4.10 A.M. a thunder and lightning squall with severe rain and wind came blowing north by east; the wind remained so until eight A.M. when it hauled northeast, moderate and warm; at one P.M. wind hauled east and it commenced to rain again, having ceased from eight A.M. until this time. I saw one flock of fifteen, another of nine, another of twelve, and two or three scattering birds; during the afternoon the wind was blowing at the rate of thirty-seven miles an hour with hard rain. A large number of Golden Plover landed at night, this being the second movement. Aug. 27, I was out at daylight. The weather was very thick, with wind northeast and a little rain. I saw a good many Plover, in fact more than for the past three years put together. In the afternoon the wind backed to north by west, and later to north, the weather continuing thick, almost rain at times. Much to my surprise I saw one flock of about fifty birds go up in the air and leave on migration, evidently not liking the surroundings. About three hundred birds were shot that day on Nantucket and Tuckernuck Islands. The greater part of the birds left in the afternoon and night. I hardly expected they would go, although the wind was fair (north), for the weather was very unsettled. I judge they considered anything preferable to remaining, as they were being greatly harassed. I never in my experience knew the Plover to be so restless and unwilling to remain as they appeared to be. Instead of coursing over the ground low down, as is their usual custom after landing, they kept up in the air, in great part at an altitude of forty to one hundred yards, evincing the strongest disposition to continue migration, notwithstanding the unsettled condition of the weather, which did not apparently warrant their leaving. I noticed also that most of the flocks led to the windward, which is the reverse of what is usually the case when here.

Aug. 28, I was driving over the ground as usual at daylight. The wind was north, and increasing, the weather very misty with rain at intervals during the greater part of the day. The only birds left were some scattering flocks and about seventy to one hundred birds in a field which is preserved. No one shot many birds, and the aggregate killed was very small. Aug. 31, the only birds seen were those living in the field which is preserved. Sept. 1, I drove over the western ground and saw about a dozen Plover altogether, one of which was a Palebelly (young bird), the first for this season. The wind was west by north, then west, from which point it backed to northeast. On Sept. 2 and 3 there was nothing to note.

Sept. 4 was cloudy with wind southeast, then east, then northeast; it began to rain in the afternoon; at ten P.M. it was raining and blowing hard; it was thick during the night with wind north-northeast, with rain at intervals; from three until ten A.M. it blew very hard, with rain at times. Nothing to note. Sept. 5, I was on the western ground at daylight. The wind kept backing until it reached southwest in the afternoon with clear weather, and bright moon at night. I rather expected some birds to come on but none landed. I was out until 5.30 P.M.

The weather was pleasant and clear, and no birds came, until Sept. 15. The previous evening the wind was strong, southeast; at midnight it was blowing thirty-five miles an hour and raining hard, continuing until near morning when the wind changed to northwest, a light breeze. I saw two flocks of young birds of about twenty-five and thirty birds respectively, the larger flock, although undisturbed, I saw mount up into the air and go on migration. These two flocks were apparently new arrivals. I also saw several flocks of black-and-white-breasted birds which also, I think, landed the night before. On Sept. 16 I saw in all about one hundred Plover, but I am quite certain the greater part of them were from the field which is preserved. Sept. 18 I drove eastward where we saw about fifty birds (some of those which were living there). In the afternoon we saw a flock of about thirty young birds (probably the flock noted on Sept. 15), and another flock of five old and one young bird.

For the next week the weather was clear and pleasant, but with considerable wind from west to north. No new birds came on as far as I could ascertain. I saw about one hundred young birds on Sept. 25, but I am not certain that I did not see some of them more than once, as these were birds that were living on the island.

At about four o'clock on the afternoon of Sept. 26 a flock of Plover containing about forty birds was seen flying towards the west from the northeast, they were pretty well up in the air. During the following week (to Oct. 3) the weather was clear and pleasant. I drove over most of the ground twice, and made inquiry, but did not see or hear of any new arrivals. I regarded the migration as over for the season at that time, though it was still possible, but not probable, that some young birds might yet be passing.

Summary. — The season of 1892 has shown much weather favorable for landing Plover; it has also shown that more birds, both old and young, did land than for the previous three years combined. It also showed that on Aug. 27, the afternoon following the night of their landing, owing to their being greatly harassed, the larger portion of the birds departed, notwithstanding that the weather conditions were very unsettled and apparently scarcely warranted their leaving. Also that while they were on the islands of Nantucket and Tuckernuck they manifested the greatest uneasiness and reluctance in remaining, leading up to windward well up in the air with the possible idea of turning back and plainly showing to me, as far as I was able to interpret their actions, that they were remaining much against their will, seemingly determined to leave at the earliest

possible moment; this they did in great part late on that afternoon and during the night of Aug. 27, having landed on the night of Aug. 26. Those birds which found rest in a certain preserved field would immediately return to it and remain there, if shot at while flying outside. These particular birds continued to reside in this field until one hundred and thirty-two had accumulated, when the owners of the field commenced to shoot them; this drove them from this place to others where they were at once pursued and shot until but few remained by Oct. 1, 1892.

My friend Mr. Wm. Everett, of Dorchester, Mass., sends me the following note: At Malpeque, Prince Edward Island, Aug. 23, 1892, during mild and pleasant weather, the first flight of Golden Plover probably landed on the night of Aug. 22, for they were first seen the next day. A few hundred birds remained in the various fields, but the greater part of them passed south. There were but few Plover shot here this season.—  
GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

**Black Vulture in Maine.**—Under date of November 3, Mr. Geo. A. Boardman writes me as follows: "Our local taxidermist (Calais, Maine) received a Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*) which was killed here. This makes the sixth I have known to be taken in this vicinity, while only one specimen of the Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) has been secured in this locality. The latter I consider much the more northern bird."—  
WILLIAM DUTCHER, *New York City.*

**Some Additional Eastern Records of Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).**—Proofs that Swainson's Hawk visits New England at no very infrequent intervals and perhaps in some numbers, multiply steadily if slowly. I now have two fresh specimens to report; one killed at Essex, Massachusetts, May 29, 1892, the other near Calais, Maine, about October 8, 1892.

The Essex specimen was sent in the flesh to Mr. M. Abbott Frazar, who mounted it and afterwards sold it to me. It is a fine old bird, a female, in the melanistic phase, wholly dark colored (sooty or clove brown) both above and beneath, save on the bend of the wing, which is whitish, the under surface of the tail, which is banded with ashy white, and the under tail-coverts and crissum, which are soiled white with faint rusty and brownish markings. There is also a little half-concealed whitish on the forehead and chin and the feathers on the back are bordered with faded brown. Mr. Frazar, whose experience in such matters entitles his judgment to much weight, tells me that the ovaries were undeveloped and that the bird was evidently not in breeding condition, a point of some importance in view of the date of its capture. Of the two Massachusetts specimens previously recorded, one (in the Peabody Museum) was taken in the winter of 1871-72 (Allen, Bull. Essex Inst., X, 1878, p. 22), the other (in the present writer's collection) in September, 1876, at Wayland (Brewster, Bull. N. O. C., III, Jan., 1878, p. 39).